



1/27/05 3731/8

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 06530.0276-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
 Marc O. SCHURR et al.)
)
 Application No.: 09/957,451) Group Art Unit: 3731
)
 Filed: September 21, 2001) Examiner: B. Pantuck
)
 For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR) Confirmation No. 2507
 FOLDING AND SECURING)
 TISSUE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached

form.

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This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

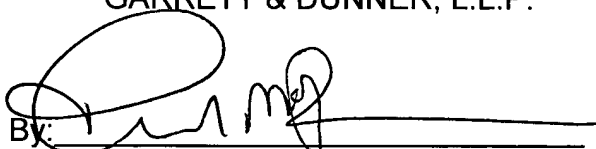
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement that is not otherwise accounted for, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 9, 2005

By: 
Roland G. McAndrews
Reg. No. 41,450

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Application Number

09/957,451

Filing Date

September 21, 2001

First Named Inventor

Marc O. SCHURR et al.

Art Unit

3731

Examiner Name

B. Pantuck

Attorney Docket Number

06530.0276-00000

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | | US-5,395,030 | 03-07-1995 | Kuramoto et al. | |
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| | | US-5,571,116 | 11-05-1996 | Bolanos et al. | |
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Note: Copies of the U.S. Patent Documents are not Required in IDS filed after October 21, 2004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation ⁶ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| | | Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
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SignatureDate
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.